



The Great Horwood Village Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

JUNE 4TH FROM 3PM: *THE PLAN FOR THE DAY!*

3pm: The celebrations start! The Lord of The Manor cuts the opening ribbon, the church bells peel out and the Great Horwood Silver Band start the fun! Our wonderful floral arch will help make it a day to remember.

3pm to 5pm: Free children's entertainment with races (weather permitting!), circus skills, maypole dancing, sumo wrestling, sponge football, face painting, street performers and an ice cream van! The cricket club is also organising a bowling competition. There is a prize for the best children's fancy dress outfit on the theme of Kings and Queens so get your thinking caps (or crowns!) on.


5pm: Tables will be set up along the high street ready for everyone to bring their own food and drink for the picnic from 5pm to 8pm. The WI are going to make some brilliant cakes for us and there will be a very special village diamond jubilee cake made by June Margerrison! The Great Horwood silver band will be playing for us again too.

8pm: We will be dancing on the Green! We have live music including a fantastic local band AND a local singer and there will be food you can buy from a pig roast and from our local fish and chip van. You can bring your own drink or buy it from The Crown or The Swan if you want.

We will light the beacon accompanied by our very own opera singer at 10.30pm! Dancing and celebrations then until 1am!

We need to know how many people want to join the celebrations so we can plan the Green, organise the children's events and put out the right number of tables and chairs. So if you would like seats at the picnic or would like to join us in the evening (and haven't already let us know) then you can fill in the application form in this FOCUS. All tickets are free.

See you on the 4th June!



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St James' Services for May

			Sidesmen	Readers	Intercessor
6th May	11.00am	Holy Communion	M Gilbey	S Martin	D Brazier
8th May	2.00pm	Sunbeams	-	-	-
13th May	11.00am	Come and Praise	S Hemphill	T Brazier	M Gilbey
20th May	11.00am	Holy Communion	J Margerrison	I Lamberton	J Margerrison
27th May	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)	-	-	-
27th May	11.00am	Service of the Word	I Lamberton	J Brigden	Clergy
3rd June	11.00am	Holy Communion	D Brazier	C Martin	M Vincent

Change of time for Services at St James'

Please note that the **start time of services at St James' Church from 6th May will be 11.00am.** The Big Breakfast which we serve before the Come and Praise Service will now start at 10.30am. All other details concerning services remain the same. All welcome.

Church Key Rota – David and Rita Essam – tel 714424

Sunbeams

Sunbeams will resume this month on **Tuesday 8th May**, starting at 2pm in the Children's Corner at St James'. During our time together we listen to a story, sing songs and always make something to take home. Refreshments are available. All 0 – 5 year olds and their parents/carers welcome. For more details please contact Sue Brazier on 714712.

Church Flowers

I have now decided to "hang up my scissors" and pass the organisation of the church flowers and weddings etc to someone else. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the ladies who have helped me with the lovely window displays over the years especially Liz and Anne for their help with the big jobs.

Thank you all - keep blooming; Marian Taylor.



Litter Pick

The Diamond Jubilee will soon be here and so will the fantastic free street party which is being organised! The Parish Council and the Diamond Jubilee Committee would love the village to be

looking at its best by then so would like to organise a **litterpick towards the end of May. If you think you could spare a couple of hours one weekend to help tidy the village please contact the Clerk, Karen Francis, on 712941.** Many thanks.



Great Horwood Mad March Hare Fun Run

Sunday 25th March dawned bright and clear and even though an hour had been lost

overnight with the clocks changing, 227 runners arrived at Great Horwood School with a spring in their step and fighting fit for this year's 5k Fun Run.

It was the most entries we have had for a good few years and there was a great atmosphere as everybody gathered for Christine Bryant's pre-race warm-up. Runners could be seen streaming along Pilch Lane as far as the eye could see and there was a great turnout of spectators too.

As usual there were some amazing running times. The full the results can be found on the Great Horwood School website. The men's was won by **Justin Fowler** in a fantastic time of 17:16 and in the women's Claire Terkelson was just pipped at the post by **Jane Simons** who beat her by 0.1 of a second in 23:32.

The Male U16 was won by **James Brown** (19:09), Female U16 by **Amy Radford** (19:24), Male U12 by **Adam Graham** (21.24); Female U12 by **Evie Doran** 26.34; Male U9 by **Henry Fuggle** (22.25); Female U9 **Rhianne Rush** (25.42) – many congratulations to them on their achievement. The PTA had, as usual, a splendid refreshment stall and the event was sponsored once again by Boyd Coughlan so many thanks to both of them.

The Fun Run raised about £1,300 for the school, an incredible achievement for a village of this size. We received many emails afterwards commenting on the lovely atmosphere and happy faces so all participants and helpers should feel extremely proud of themselves. Let's hope next year's event can be even bigger and better.

Sheila Landymore

Help Preserve our own Wildflower Meadow – Saturday 12th May

Did you know you have an amazing wildflower meadow on your doorstep? Pilch Lane Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Nature Reserve is an old ridge & furrow meadow thick with cowslips and wild orchids this time of year.

Unfortunately, if we left it to nature it would soon disappear under scrub vegetation, so every spring there's an annual hawthorn pull & bramble bash. The group 'Earthworks Conservation Volunteers' will be coming up from London on **Saturday 12th May** to help with this task and we should support them in preserving such a valuable habitat for wildlife by taking part.

The group will be meeting at the gates to the reserve at the far end of Pilch Lane on the sharp right hand bend at around **10am and will be on site until about 4pm.** Don't feel obliged to come for the whole day - If you can only spare an hour or two it all helps.

Things to bring:

- Gloves & tools if you have them – garden fork, loppers, mattock – if you have them (some will be provided for those who don't).
- Refreshments and a packed lunch if you intend staying.
- Sunscreen if it's sunny, rain gear if the opposite.
- Enthusiasm and a sense of humour!

For more about the group visit:

<http://freespace.virgin.net/stu.san/earthworks.htm> or, if you have any questions contact Stuart Birrell on 712410.

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FRIDAY – FISH NIGHT: NORMAL MENU AVAILABLE

For more information or Table Bookings – phone 712556



Ticket application form: Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. June 4th from 3pm

Ticket applications have been flooding in for the Diamond jubilee picnic and evening celebration which is just fantastic news! There is still time though to get your application in and you can **use the form below if you haven't already asked for tickets**. You can then give it to any committee member (John Gilbey, Jo Dicken, Vicky Rocquelin, Kate Jones, Sarah Murphy, Paul Robertson, June Margerrison, Steve Bennett, Ann Elliott and Mark Seddon), drop it in at The Crown or leave it with me at 28 Spring Lane. Or you can email your requirements to me at ann@elliottmarketingpr.com or ring me on 01296 715578.

For the picnic we will reserve seats in the name of your party so you won't have a mad scramble to find a place and there will be a table plan to help you find your places. So if you would like seats for the picnic and/or tickets for the evening and haven't already sent in your request then please fill in the form below. All tickets are free.

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Phone number

I would like the following

Picnic seats

Evening tickets

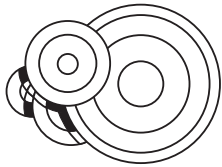
Number of Adults

Number of Children

Ages of children

We have a great bunch of people who have offered to help during the weekend to put up bunting, erect marquees and sort out tables and chairs etc. If you would like to join us then just let me or Paul Robertson know on paul@robertson34.orangehome.co.uk/ 01296 715814

We have had some wonderful offers of sponsorship too from; *the Livery at Piglets Bottom Farm*, Pilch Lane (07798 885949); *P & J Services* (13, Weston Road); *Nipperbout* (mobile crèche and event care. info@nipperbout.com); *Homewatt* (www.homewatt.co.uk. Low energy, low cost & LED light bulbs); *Home Farm* (01296 712331. hofarm@tiscali.co.uk) and *The Grange Stables Bed & Breakfast*, (www.grangestables.co.uk tel:01296 712051). Thank you for your generosity. If you are a local business and would like to sponsor the day too then do get in touch with me, Ann Elliott, on the above address.



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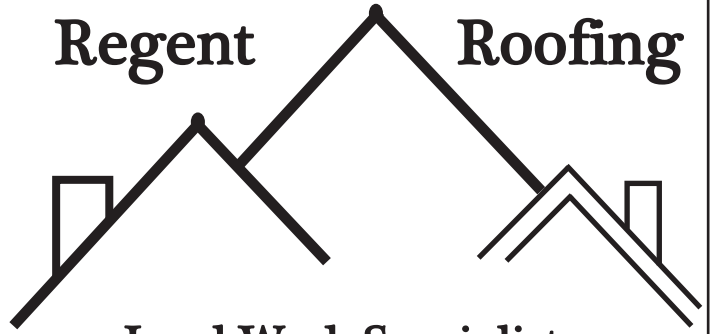
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By the time you read this I will have run (and walked and limped!) the London Marathon to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK (www.justgiving.com/annelliott56). When I last raised money for Bowel Cancer UK, my mum was still alive and somehow I always thought she would be around. Since mum died I have become a trustee of the charity.

Their health promotion team is supported by a small group of trained volunteers, working across the UK. I want to raise £25k this year to help fund a substantial increase in this volunteer programme enabling them to directly reach over 60,000 more people and indirectly reach a further 233,000 with key messages in a cost-effective way. They want to recruit and train 160 new volunteers this year, the majority of whom will have direct experience of bowel cancer and are likely to be the best placed people to promote early detection by delivering workshops and talks to their main target groups.

I am going to have a year of fund raising activities including running the Winslow 10k (26th Feb), running the M.K Half Marathon (4th March), completing (!) the London Marathon (April 22nd), holding a Post Summer Party (and fund raiser) on Saturday October 6th in Mursley Village Hall (tickets £15 each) and then trekking to Everest Base Camp in November.

I couldn't do any of this (I am NO athlete and hate running!) without the help, commitment and dedication of two people in the village – **Steve Barfoot and Paul Robertson.**



spherefitness.co.uk

Steve is brilliant. He is inspiring, motivational, realistic (he has had to be) and persuasive. He has been the one to get me running at 6.30am throughout the winter 4 days a week when I have not wanted to get out of bed never mind go out in the dark. He is great fun and a fabulous trainer. He can be contacted on steve@spherefitness.co.uk or (m) 07791 061965.



I think everyone knows Paul . He has pushed me to cycle faster and harder than I have ever wanted to go and accompanied that with the odd cross country run. He is also an outstanding tennis and squash instructor as well as being the kindest and nicest of friends. He can be contacted on paul@robertson34.orangehome.co.uk or (m) 07866 748919.

Thanks to them both. If you want help with your training in any way, I can truly recommend them!

Ann Elliott

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Summer Ball Saturday June 23rd

Black tie, ball gowns and a great night return to the Village Hall following last year's successful evening. The Summer Ball is back on June the 23rd

Doors open at 7.45pm with Licensed Bar available all night, Supper served at 8.45 and dancing till midnight from 9.30.

Tickets at £15.00 each to include Supper

Further Information from June Margerrison on 01296-714554



Stowe's £9 million makeover allows visitors to follow in the footsteps of 18th century tourists

Visitors to the 250 acre landscape garden at Stowe in Buckinghamshire can now, for the first time in 150 years, experience one of the world's greatest gardens the way its Georgian designers intended. A £9 million project by the National Trust to restore and transform the gateway to Stowe, one of Britain's earliest tourist attractions, is now complete.

The New Inn, built in 1717 by Lord Cobham, was the original purpose-built entrance for visitors to Stowe.

Acquired by the Trust in 2005, the dilapidated inn has been rebuilt and restored over the last two years to become a visitor centre worthy of today's contemporary day-trippers. Visitors can now experience a real taste of 18th century life, sitting and playing games by the open fire in the parlour rooms, sampling ale in the old tap room on special days and seeing the kitchen and laundry room at work.

David Brooks, National Trust property manager at Stowe, said: "Stowe is an inspiring place for visitors to get outdoors and explore, thanks to its 250 acres of gardens, 2,000 trees, 40 temples and two large lakes."

Much of the original inn built by Lord Cobham has been reconstructed thanks to thorough research into the original building design by tracking down historic photographs, drawings and documents as well as researching materials and construction methods used at that time. A 75 strong building team, and over 250 volunteers have been involved at one stage or another in the project.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) provided £1.5 million towards the £9 million for the restoration and revival of the New Inn with other fund-raising initiatives and donations making up the remainder.

The New Inn visitor centre was formally opened on 23 March 2012 by garden celebrity, Alan Titchmarsh.

Visitors can now enjoy access to the gardens and New Inn seven days a week from 10am until 6pm. To find out more call 01280 817156, email stowe@nationaltrust.org.uk or log onto www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe

Great Horwood Silver Band

At the recent AGM, Roy Lack, the band's Musical Director for many years, returned to playing Euphonium at his own request. Roy has been recording a new CD with the band and will finish the production which is almost complete. Look out for more news of the recording in the near future.

We are pleased to welcome our new Musical Director Simon Martin (not be confused with Simon Martin our Eb bass player). Simon was born and brought up in Marple near Stockport, where he started playing with Marple Junior Band. Simon studied music at Leeds university 1998 - 2001, and also studied teacher training at Manchester Metropolitan university 2003 -2004. He has played trumpet and cornet in many orchestras, bands and ensembles and

enjoys a diverse range of music. He lived in Osaka Japan, where he taught English language. Simon now lives in Steeple Claydon and is married to Emma, who also plays cornet with us. Emma and Simon are expecting their first child in July. Simon now teaches music at Denbigh School Milton Keynes, and also plays currently in a big band and a function band.

Len Goodwin, who was unable to attend the AGM because of holidays, was re-elected President in his absence. Bob Hart, Michael Brocklehurst and Ricky Lambert were re-elected Vice Presidents. Roy Lack was re-elected Chairman. Daniel Cook was elected by the junior members to represent them on the committee for the next year. Daniel succeeds his sister Lauren in the post

Congratulations to 15 year-old Tom Stoneman who recently obtained grade 7 on Trumpet. Well done Tom!

The band's next engagement will be on **Saturday May 5th** on Edlesborough Green 12.30pm, followed on **Saturday May 19th** where they will be playing in the garden of Mr and Mrs Grimditch to raise funds for St James' Church (see back page of FOCUS). On Monday 4th June they will be playing again in Great Horwood for the Jubilee celebrations from 3pm and on Saturday June 17th return to Thornton College to play for their Fete.

In 2011 we donated £820 to local and National Charities and will be playing to raise funds for several worthy charities this year.

100 Club Winners for March were:

Ian Godwin £12

Graham Saunders £8

You can see more about the band and the latest photos on www.freewebs.com/greathorwood

Beryl Lack



Flowers and Foliage – help required please

We would be so grateful if **people have any artificial flowers** that we could use on the flower arch for the Golden Jubilee celebrations. And we need quite a lot of **'real' green foliage too.**

All offers to Liz Nicholls (715331 or liz.nicholls@lineone.net) or Jeannie Marshall (713727)

Its great to revive this village tradition of an archway for a major event!

Liz and Jeannie



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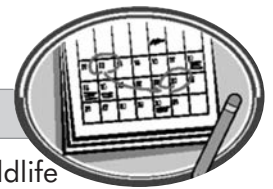
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Great Horwood Diary of Events 2012



DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sat 12 May	10am – 4.00 pm	Tidy up of Pilch Lane Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust Nature Res. (see FOCUS article)
Sat 19 May	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Great Horwood Silver band plays for church funds (see back page of FOCUS)
Mon 4 Jun	3.00pm - late	Diamond Jubilee Celebration fun day on the Village Green
Sat 23 Jun	8.00pm – 12.00pm	Midsummer Ball in the Village Hall
Sat 7 Jul	1.00pm – 4.00pm	Fete on the Village Green
Mon 30 Jul	Afternoon	Play Around the Parishes
Mon 6 Aug	6.00pm – 11.00pm	Great Horwood Feast on the Village Green
Tue 7 Aug	6.00pm – 11.00pm	Great Horwood Feast on the Village Green
Tue 14 Aug	Morning	Play Around the Parishes
Thu 30 Aug	Afternoon	Play Around the Parishes
Sat 29 Sep	7.00pm – 11.00pm	Mad Hatters Supper in the Village Hall
Sat 6 Oct	10.00am – 1.00pm	Giving morning in St James with exhibits, cake stall & refreshments
Fri 12 Oct	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Harvest Supper in St James
Sun 14 Oct	10.00am – 11.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service in St James

As at 15.04.12 Please email additions to john@gilbey98.freemove.co.uk

Village Hall Diary

Please feel free to visit the hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings. We have a good selection of books and jigsaws on display and these are free to borrow.

Regular Activities and Events:

Monday

- Mums with toddlers (under 5's) meet 9.30- 11.30am. Lots of toys to keep the children happy while mum meets other mums.
- Parish council meet **14th May at 7.30pm.**
- Every other Monday evening an excellent youth group meet - Lots to do.

Tuesday

- Second evening of the month (May 8th) WI meet at 7.30pm. Very good speakers, good value, make new friends.

Wednesday

- Visiting POST OFFICE 9.30am – 11.30am. Tea and coffee served 20p. Sit and pass the time of day. Sale table, Free range eggs. Hand made cards something a bit special And visit the Library as there are books AND jigsaws to borrow.
- Silver Band rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. Newcomers welcome.

Thursday

- Start your day with V-FIT 9am till 10am. Sets you up for your weekend.
- Every other Thursday evening: whist drive, 7.15pm for a 7.30 start. £2 per person. Refreshment inc. Tuition available. Contact Jeannie on 713727 for info.

Friday

- Art and Craft group meet. Very social gathering. 10am till noon-ish! Tea and coffee and browse the books!

We have all you require for a game of indoor short tennis. Excellent for those dreary days.

Don't forget to **book your events** and such in the Village Hall. Parties, gatherings.... Very reasonable rates. Tel. Jeannie 713727 for bookings or for any other information about the Hall.

Jeannie Marshal

Village Hall

ATTENTION: Lost Jacket.

Following our very successful film evening in the village hall, a gentleman has left behind a very nice casual jacket. It is a woollen grey/blue hooded ,zip front X/L Debenhams. If you recognise this item please ring 713727 to have it returned

VOTE VOTE VOTE....**Thursday May 3rd** the village hall will be open from 7.30am for you to VOTE in the LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

POO on the PECE

It's very sad that some people don't clear up their dog's excrement from public places. Just recently we have found droppings, from



a large dog, that appear often on the Rec. We feel grateful to those who always clear up after their dog and we are especially thankful to some regulars, with dogs of their own, who have picked it up in the past. There is a specific bin just outside the ground, so there is NO EXCUSE for leaving it where people and, more importantly, children, can accidentally walk in it.

If you see anyone with a dog that poos on the Pece, please report it to the Dog Warden at A.V.D.C. or tell us, Liz and John Nicholls tel: 715331 or email liz.nicholls@lineone.net

theWI

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Morning - Flower arranging (Table centre & Button Hole)
Afternoon - Silk Fabric painting

£12 (non-members) including Lunch & Refreshments.

Thursday 24th May

Visit to - **Belfair Chocolate Atelier**, Brackley
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Neighbourhood Watch

This is a Community message from Aylesbury Watch Office: There has been an increase in the number of reported burglaries from garden sheds in the Aylesbury Vale Area. In view of this please consider the following crime prevention advice:

- Make sure your sheds and outbuildings are secured with a good quality lock.
- Consider replacing screws on door hinges with anti-tamper screws - available from most DIY stores.
- Think about purchasing a shed alarm to protect your property.
- Lock your garden tools away and make sure they are marked with your postcode and house number. Consider investing in a DNA property marking kit.
- Make sure any suspicious activity is reported immediately to the Police. Where possible, obtain a description of any persons, along with the model, colour and registration number of any vehicle.

For further advice about protecting sheds and outbuildings visit our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Or if you are concerned ring :- **101**

Use it to report a crime, contact a police officer - all police officers have mobile phones so you can leave a message for them to respond to when next on duty - or contact your local police station. 999 can also be used and will connect you to the emergency services, namely fire ambulance and the police. If you have information about crime but do not want to speak to the police, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

For any Neighbourhood Watch matters contact me on 713716 or call at 3 Greenway. More in June.

Regards, Ted Hadlow



W.I News

The sun set across the cricket field and cast a warm glow into the pavilion on April 10th as we sat down to our Annual dinner. As some of us had previously attended a WI fish cookery demonstration we thought it would be a great idea to have a fishy theme to the event this year. There was a mackerel pate starter followed by a main course of salmon with parsley sauce and vegetables. Then we all tucked into a scrumptious array of puddings: pavlova, chocolate bombe, citrus tart, chilled lemon flan and of course we all had a spoonful of fruit salad to make it healthy. There was also a quiz to test our fishy knowledge and a raffle. Our special thanks to all who helped prepare the meal and venue making it a successful fun evening.

On Friday April 13th some of us attended the Annual Bucks Federation Women's Institute Council Meeting at the Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury. Throughout the day there were formalities and business to attend to including the announcement of the new Trustees for 2012-2014 and the adoption of BFWI mandates.

We also had a varied programme of speakers: in the morning Peter Lien, head of the WI Cookery School; Johnnie Walker from Walkers' Bulbs and Roderick Watson (who spoke about Dorney Lake where the Olympic rowing will take place). In the afternoon Adam Henson (Country File) entertained us with a fast, fact filled romp through his life, from childhood in the Cotswolds to his presentation skills on our TV screens. Throughout, his passion and knowledge about farming was informative, funny and thought provoking.

At our regular monthly meeting in the village hall on **May 8th Sandra Webb** will be cooking up some exotic vegetables. Ever wondered what to do with a plantain or celeriac? well Sandra has the answers.

Also in **May**: On **19th** we have a **Workshop** in the village hall from 10.30am to 4.30pm. In the morning there will be *flower*

arranging and in the afternoon *silk fabric painting*. This is open to anyone and costs just £12 for non-members including lunch but booking is essential as places are limited. The **22nd** sees us off to Steeple Claydon to join other WI's for a ramble and a meal. Then on **24th** we visit **Belflair Chocolate Atelier**, Brackley, to taste and learn the art of the chocolatier. This is again open to non-members and costs approximately £6pp, plus travel but tickets are limited so contact us soon. On the 30th two members are attending the **WI Annual General Meeting** at the Royal Albert Hall in London. This is the opportunity for WI members to have a voice and vote on resolutions proposed by WI members.

Looking ahead to **June**: We have our bi-weekly walks, which are getting us out and about. Our regular meeting on **12th** when the Head Gardener from Stowe, **Barry Smith**, will be telling us all about this very influential landscape garden.

A programme of our monthly meetings is displayed in the village hall, so why not pop along to one, you would be very welcome. If you would like to know more about your local WI or are interested in any of our forthcoming events please call us.

Val Smith Tel:01296 711551 Karen Wilkinson 01296 712933

Great Horwood CE Combined School



Dance Extravaganza

Recently, led by Mrs Davies (LSA), children from Year 5 and 6 took part in a Dance Extravaganza at Buckingham School. We are very pleased to let you know that the team finished as joint winners, and will be competing in the regional finals at Cottesloe School later on this month.

Football

Our school football team played its second competitive match of the season, and our first home game in many, many years. St Mary's school from Aylesbury visited, with a team featuring players on the books of MK Dons and Watford! Our team played valiantly against such talented players, eventually losing 7-0. Mrs Nunn, the St Mary's coach, congratulated our team on the spirit of the performance.

Knitting Club

Great Horwood School knitting club are attempting to make 20 stitches by 20 stitches knitted squares in order to sew them together to make little blankets for the animals at the RSPCA Blackberry Farm centre in Quanton. As we are just learning to knit, it is taking a long time to piece together enough squares to make the blankets, **so if anyone in the village would like to make some for us, we would be most grateful. Also if you have any balls of chunky wool you no longer need, we would also appreciate those.** For more information please contact Claire Lucas at the school 01296 712622

Paul Adams: Headteacher

Great Horwood Under 5's Stay and Play -

We are a small friendly group who meet Monday mornings (except bank holidays) 9.30am – 11.30am in the Village Hall. Children play safely and we have a well-deserved cuppa!

Come along and see what we have to offer. You'll be assured of a warm welcome.

- **9.30am – 11.30am every Monday in the Village Hall**
- £1.50 for first child, £2 for two or more
- Includes drink and snack
- First visit free

Now on **facebook** which lists the events and activities that are taking place.

Sharon Pearce. Tel: 01296 715299



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Saturday	10:00am	-	4:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED		

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CHAIRMAN'S MONTHLY REPORT LAST MEETING – MONDAY 2ND APRIL 2012

Annual Parish Meeting

We held our Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 2nd April and I am pleased to say that more than 30 people attended. I gave my Chairman's report of Parish Council activities for the last year.

I was also pleased to thank Liz Nicholls for her monthly reports on Horwode Pece recreation area and Robert Deuchar for his monthly reports to the Parish Council on the state of the footpaths in the Parish.

We heard from PC Martin Siderman and PCSO Alex Trivino from Thames Valley Police who reported that Great Horwood is a low crime area but that speeding vehicles still remain a major issue in the village and also in many other villages in the area.

Jo Dicken gave an update on preparations for the village Diamond Jubilee event on 4th June and outlined the plan of activities that will take place during the day and evening.

Liz Nicholls told us how the book for the village is progressing and that it will be titled "Great Horwood Past and Present" with a likely selling price of £12 to £14.

The minutes of the meeting and a copy of my PowerPoint presentation are available on the Parish Council website.

Planning Matters

A public consultation on the plans for a development on the land at the rear of The Paddocks, 12 High Street will take place on the morning of **Saturday 16th June** in the Village hall. The information so far received is that the proposed development will consist of 4 or 5 houses with access to the site from the High Street.

The Council has decided to oppose the plans for an additional dwelling to be built in the grounds of 2 School End and has submitted a document giving detailed reasons for its opposition.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has now received the cheque for £20,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government to produce its Neighbourhood Plan. I am also pleased to say that following the Annual Parish Meeting, Jeremy West and Mike Hobday agreed to join the project team and Matt Vincent has also confirmed his interest. We will have had our first meeting with the enlarged team with a representative of AVDC Forward Plans Department on Thursday April 26th.

Dog Bins

The two additional dog bins have been installed; one in Nash Road and the other in Singleborough.

Footpaths

Two more residents have expressed an interest in sponsoring one of the 4 new gates that we hope to install on footpath 8/1 in Singleborough.

Diamond Jubilee

The committee is working very hard to ensure everything is in place for the celebrations on 4th June and needs all ticket applications that are still outstanding to be returned to a member of the committee ASAP. There is an application form in this issue of FOCUS.

Bollards on The Green

One of the bollards on The Green has been demolished by an unknown vehicle and this allowed unauthorised vehicle access on to the grassed area during the morning of the village fun run. In order to protect the grassed area of The Green from damage it

was agreed to replace the bollard but to try to obtain a more aesthetically pleasing format for all the bollards on that side of the grassed area.

Parish Council Website

For a more comprehensive report of the Parish Council meeting please read the minutes published on the website. (<http://www.bucksvoice.net/greathorwoodpc/>). This website also has updates of items on its latest news page.

If you have any items that you would like to bring to the Council's attention at any time please contact either the Clerk or any Councillor and we are always pleased to welcome residents to our monthly meeting during which we always have a public participation period.

The next meeting is to be held on **Monday 14th May 2012 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall which will also be the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Chairman and other officers and appointments to committees and outside bodies for the coming year will be made at this meeting.

John Gilbey – Chairman Great Horwood Parish
Counciljohn@gilbey98.freemove.co.uk



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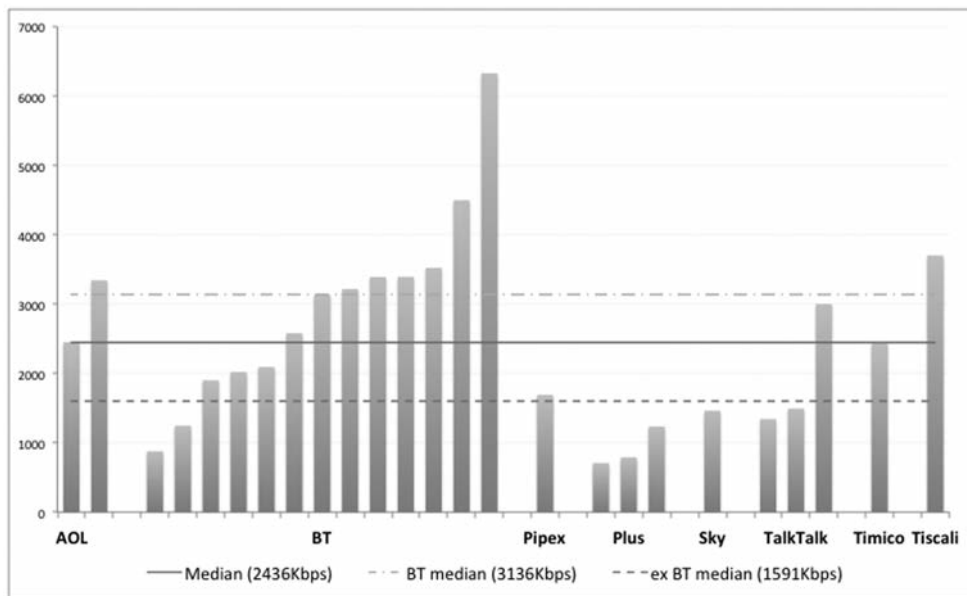
Tuesday	1st	May	– Buckingham Bus. 1 hour in Buckingham 1 hour at Tesco's.*
Thursday	3rd	May	– Asheridge Bluebell Run. Country drive with pub lunch and hopefully catch some Bluebells! £6.00 (not including lunch)
Tuesday	8th	May	– Moreton-in-Marsh Market £5.00
Thursday	10th	May	– Westcroft Bus*
Tuesday	15th	May	– Visit Houses of Parliament with tour and View of State Rooms. £10.00.
Thursday	17th	May	– Cotswolds Lunch 'n Drive £6.00
Tuesday	22nd	May	– Cotswolds Lunch 'n Drive £6.00
Thursday	24th	May	– Westcroft Bus*
Tuesday	29th	May	– Frosts Garden Centre at Woburn Sands £4.50
Thursday	31st	May	– Banbury Shopping £5.00
Tuesday	5th	June	– Buckingham Bus.*
Thursday	14th	June	– Westcroft Bus
Monday	18th	June	– Buckingham Garden Centre. Free teas and coffees on arrival, 10% off lunch. £3.00
Tuesday	19th	June	– Visit Claydon House. House, garden, lake, restaurant and tea-room. £10.00 (incl entrance).
Thursday	21st	June	– Visit Anglesey Abbey. House and gardens, and Lode mill. £15.00 includes entrance.
Tuesday	26th	June	– Thame Market £3.50
Thursday	28th	June	– Westcroft Bus*

Milton Keynes Theatre.

All prices are for tickets in Band A price range (Circle or stalls) and travel. Performances start 2.30pm unless otherwise stated. Door to door service! **Book soon to avoid disappointment.**

Friday	4th	May	– 5pm showing Dirty Dancing £44.00
Wednesday	13th	June	– Steel Magnolias with Isla Blair and Cherie Lunghi. A heart warming bitter sweet comedy. £25.00
Wednesday	20th	June	– Sister Act. £26.50.
Wednesday	4th	July	– Murder on the Nile, starring Kate O'Mara. Stylish new production of the classic. £19.00
Wednesday	1st	August	– Legally Blonde. The all singing all dancing feel good musical comedy. £25.00

Telephone Sue on 01296 715786
to book your tickets for trips and theatre.
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Great Horwood and Singleborough Broadband Survey Results

I received a total of 25 readings and have produced a report together with a map showing the individual speeds geographically that you can see at <http://tinyurl.com/cawdns4>. The bar chart above shows the speeds by supplier. Individual speeds ranged from 700Kbps (very slow) to 6300 (fast).

Conclusions

Where you live in the village doesn't determine the speed you achieve, as some of the fastest readings are furthest from the distribution point at the corner of Pilch Lane and High St and also there are large differences in speed in houses close to one another. Different suppliers do more or less well, as shown in the bar chart above. BT, the most popular, manages to deliver the fastest speeds as well as some of the slowest, although on average performs best.

The conclusion is that **if you're suffering with a slow speed you should demand something better from your supplier, using the map to show what CAN be achieved where you live** (they can view it for themselves using the same website link). **If you're thinking of changing suppliers, BT would seem to be the best bet** (setting aside any price considerations).

As noted, the survey found big differences in speed irrespective of location, so please remember that the speed you get at your computer can be affected by conditions specific to your house and network, including the efficiency of the hardware being used and the degree of electrical interference (which can be minimised by proper installation of microfilters on all telephone outlets).

I will repeat the exercise in a couple of months when we should be able to see what impact, if any, the transition to new technology at Winslow exchange has had.

John Whitehead

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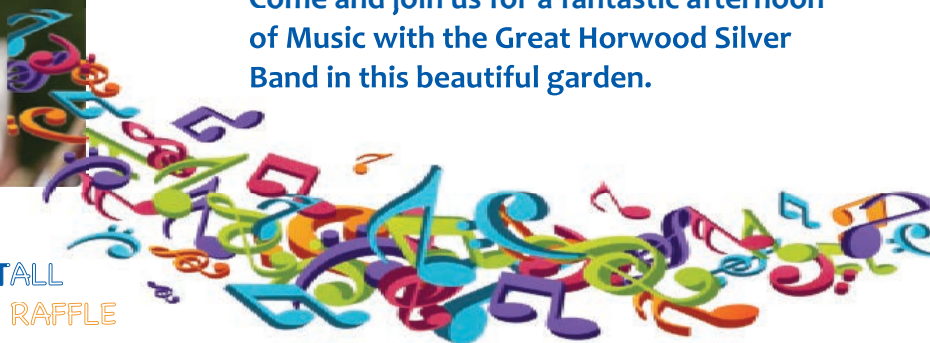


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7th JULY
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We are continuing to plan the Fete and hope that you will let us know your ideas to make it a fun time for all. Also if you are able to help on the day please let us know

PLANT AND PRODUCE STALL

Our plant and produce stall is always popular and so PLEASE WHEN YOU ARE POTTING UP OR SEPARATING YOUR GARDEN PLANTS do a few extra for the fete.

You can always leave your plants in the front garden of Old Timbers 14, Little Horwood Road or bring them on the day.

THANKS, Susan (715336), Monica (711915) and Valerie (712997)